

EDITORIAL

Pornography under a different name

Who should draw the line between art and pornography?

Should it be the censor?

No. There is nothing except an arbitrary appointment that makes a censor more able to decide what is decent, moral and permissible in society, than a stock clerk.

Should it be the politician?

No. Politicians merely reflect whatever aspect of society is lobbying them at any given point in time. And lately, organized factions of "concerned citizens" have been working hard to "purify" our streets, art galleries, music halls, library shelves, and minds of "smut."

There is nothing new here. Censorship has existed for centuries, under different names like "editorial standards," "sacred ideals," etc. And as usual, whenever aboveground becomes too constrictive, artists go underground. They have less exposure, but more freedom.

Morality changes era by era. We must remember that there is no absolute art ethic. Homosexuality was the highest form of love in Classical Greece and the art of the period reflected it. Today, mainstream morality has changed drastically and left homoerotic art on the fringe (the lunatic fringe according to some right-wing fundamentalists).

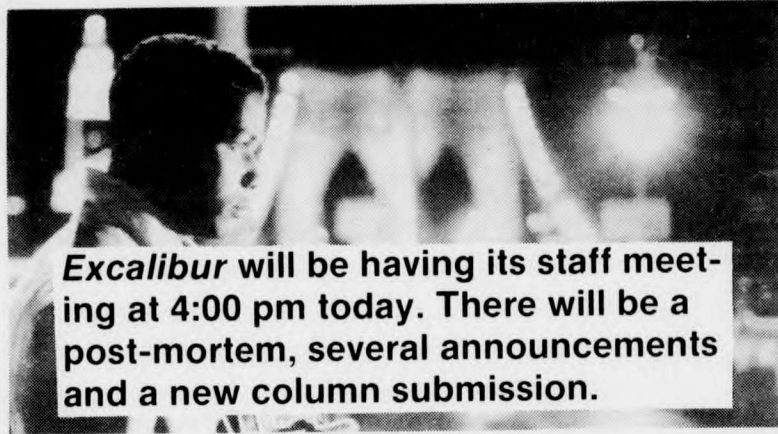
Which brings us to the late Robert Maplethorpe. Charges of obscenity have been leveled against Maplethorpe's photography exhibit in a court case being held in Cincinnati. His depictions of stark human anatomy, homoeroticism, and anal and oral intercourse have many people fuming, especially since he received government grants to create his art.

Angry citizens argue over why their tax dollars should go to funding "pornography." These same people, however, may not question why their money is being used for recruitment advertising for the military.

War is far more obscene than erotica. Sexuality is harmless, but the more you repress it, the more it becomes an outlet for anger and violence.

So I ask again. Who should draw the line between art and pornography?

1. The artist, not the censor.
2. The individual, not the politician.
3. The sexually-liberated, not the sexually oppressed.
4. Me, not you



Excalibur will be having its staff meeting at 4:00 pm today. There will be a post-mortem, several announcements and a new column submission.

EXCALIBUR

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Excalibur is York University's community newspaper. We publish 20,000 copies twice-weekly, distributed across York and Glendon campuses and various locations within the North York community.

Excalibur is an autonomous corporation with a mandate to inform, educate and provoke thought among York University's diverse population.

The distinct opinions and articles appearing in Excalibur constitute our collective voice. However, they belong first and foremost to the individual writers and are not necessarily shared by any other Excalibur staff or board member.

Final editorial responsibility is retained by the Editor-in-chief.

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OUR World...

By: F.W. Cameron



LETTERS

Excalibur welcomes letters to the editor on all topics. We will publish, space permitting, letters up to 500 words in length. They must be typed, double spaced, and accompanied by the writer's name, signature and telephone number. The opinions expressed belong to the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of Excalibur staff or directors. However, letters judged to be racist, sexist or libellous by the editor will be refused. All material is subject to editing. All submissions must be addressed to the Editor-in-chief, Room 111, Central Square.

Recover staff exhibits "hypocrisy"

Dear Nancy, Heather, Jeff and Dave,

Having worked with you, both on *Recover* and on *Excalibur*, I was shocked to read your letter "Disappointed with editing" in *Excalibur* of October 1.

I know that you regularly pick up, read and critique *Excalibur*, so your claim of not knowing the editorial quality of the newspaper is a complete lie.

If you really believe that people are going to hold the quality of the article as representative of the topic, then you are grossly misinformed as to the intelligence of the readers of both *Excalibur* and *Recover*.

With regard to the "omission" of the address and phone number, I remember last year when you ran a feature on a York clown, Judy Kerman, and removed her phone number from the article because you did not want to supply her with free advertising.

I think that this hypocrisy is quite typical of your attitude towards this year's *Excalibur* staff. You were not perfect last year, and you cannot expect perfection from this year's staff.

As a founding staff member of *Recover*, I was genuinely surprised by your letter and extremely disappointed. That you would use a magazine that was started with good intentions as a

vehicle for your vendetta against an editor you don't like is something of which I am ashamed, and am hereby resigning any position you may still hold for me (the fact that I have not been contacted in quite a few months, makes me unsure as to what that may be).

Your readers deserve respect, please treat them with some.

Yours sincerely
Shaun Lacob
Ex-Recover staff member

Reader hates the word 'shit'

To the editor,

re: "Bethune prez pissed at Azed" and "Smoke 'n' Shit"

It always seems like such a paradox that students worry about the illiterates in Canadian society in light of the social implication, while at the same time, they, who have the *privilege* of literacy, do their best to mutilate the language, striving to bring it to its crudest and basest level.

When a university newspaper can only express itself in the language of a naughty ten-year-old, it makes me wonder about the level of literacy of its editorial staff!

Literacy, after all, is more than just the mechanics of being able to read and write. It also demands skill. The mechanics can be quickly taught — even a Grade 1

student learns the basics in a couple of months.

The *skillful use of language*, however, is an art which takes years to perfect. Journalists normally hope to excel in that very art — that's what journalism is all about. Why, then, are you, the editors of *Excalibur*, ashamed of your art? Or are you, perhaps, the ones referred to in the statistics? Do you use such language because, like most illiterates, you try to hide the fact that you lack the necessary skills of your chosen field?

Either show us that you have the talent to use words effectively, or take up some other pastime — one in which you are not required to put too much stress on your brain cells.

I, for one, am tired of the adolescent trash that is so prevalent in *Excalibur* this year.

Christa Hobden

ORL sports called a "low priority"

Dear Mike Dinning (Director of Recreation) and Stewart Robbins (Chairperson of the Department of Physical Education and Athletics):

I have just been advised that an Open Recreation League hockey game for our team and seven others has just been "bumped" due to some communications problems in your department

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